

A GENUINE
NARRATIVE,

OF

William Smith, who was Executed on
April the 24th 1782, for robbing the
Chester mail, and hung in chains on
Finchley Common, and Wm. Roberts
for house breaking.

With a Copy of a Letter, William Smith,
sent to the Girl he liv'd with on the
Morning of his execution.



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THE GENUINE

NARRATIVE, &c.

ON Friday the 19th of April, Mr. Recorder made his Report to his Majesty of the ten convicts under sentence of death in Newgate, who were convicted in February session, when the following were ordered for execution on Wednesday the 24th instant : William Roberts, alias Cutler, and William Smith, alias John Neagle, alias James Flood.

The following were respited : Lucins Hughes, for stealing a gold watch, the property of his Excellency Baron Kutzleben, privately

from his person ; John May and John Knowles, for a burglary in the house of Mrs. Charlotte Lewis in Dean-Street, Grosvenor-Square, and stealing a quantity of wearing apparel and linen ; Edward Wilkins, for robbing John Marrant, Esq on the highway, near Bayswater of a guinea, some silver and halfpence, and a pocket-book, containing a draft for 130l. &c. ; Jane Lee, for privately stealing in the shop of Mess. Calthorpe and Lintot, in Oxford-street, five yards and an half of printed cotton ; Anthony Ricard, for stealing in the dwelling house of Richard Onslow Esq ; five shirts, 19 pair of stockings, nine pair of silk stockings, &c. ; Ann Smith, for privately stealing in the shop of

John Hudson, in Wapping, 30 yards of linen cloth, value 30s. ; Peter Moyhew, for burglariously breaking into the house of Daniel Jacobs, in the night time, and wilfully and maliciously cutting and destroying a quantity of silk, called mantua, in the loom,

William Smith, otherwise [ohn Neagle, otherwise James Flood, was indicted for assaulting John Gladman upon the King's highway, on the 16 of January last, and putting him in corporal fear and danger of his life, and taking from his person two leather portmanteaus, value 5s. and thirty leather bags, value 10s. the goods of our sovereign Lord the King.

William Smith, alias Neagle, alias Flood, was 30 years of age,

he was in a little vilage in Warwickshire, of poor parents who endeavoured as much as lay in their power to keep him in the paths of virtue, but all their endeavours prov'd fruitless, for his wicked course of life began early from his cradle, he was naturally edicted to pilfering when young and as he grew up he grew more outrageous, for at the age of fourteen years he had been five times in Warwick Goal for petty robberies which with the punishment he received, instead of deterring him from the like vices for the future, it made him more resolute, he has been confined in a great number of goals in England for divers robberies which he has had the good fortune to escape the fatal tree ;

at Exeter he was apprehended for a capital robbery and confined in the county goal where he behaved in a very outrageous manner to his keepers that they was forc'd to load him with the heaviest irons in the goal, which weighed 140lb, but when the Affizes came on there appeared a flaw in his indictment, by which means he got clear, he then proceeded to London where he had not long been before he was taken for a robbery, cast and sent to the balest lighters for three years, he had not long been releast from there before he got acquainted with a gang of his own stamp, and committed several robberies, till at last he with his companions robbed the Chester Mail, for which he justly suffered, and hung in

chains on Finchley Common.

William Roberts, alias Cutler, was indicted for burglariously entering the house of Mr. Scott, in Milk-Street, and stealing a truss, containing two dozen and nine cotton handkerchiefs, two pieces of dowlas, and a piece of striped cotton, the property of the said Mr. Scott.

William Roberts, alias Cutler, was 36 years, born and brought up in old Gravel-lane, Wapping, where he in his profession was well known and dreaded by all the neighbourhood, till at length the hand of justice reliev'd them from their terror, and resigned him to the fate he so many years deserved.

Dear Nanny,

I now bid you farewell, for the fatal hour is drawing on, on which I must resign my sinful life, as an attonement for my past wicked life, and I hope my peace is made with Almighty, so far as I may enjoy the glorious happiness in his heavenly mansion, though my body will be hung in chains, a shocking spectacle to deter others from the like offence : My Dear, I am likewise happy within myself to think you are so well recovered from the illness you had at the time I was apprehended, my dear I must now conclude for I hear the doleful bell, which calls me to my doom, Adieu, adieu.

WILLIAM SMITH,
Newgate Cells, April 24, 1782.